

- Mister Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage over this weekend's religious violence in Egypt.
 - Despite January's inspiring calls for freedom and democracy, religious minorities in Egypt, such as the Coptic Christians, are facing increasing attacks during Egypt's transition.
 - On Saturday night, a religious clash broke out in Cairo involving an estimated 2,000 people. In the aftermath of this weekend's sectarian violence, six Muslims and six Christians were dead.
 - The Coptic Christians, like all Egyptians, are demanding freedom and respect.
 - I am concerned that even with Egypt's transition, minority rights remain extremely limited, and I believe that the interim government is not doing enough to protect the rights and lives of its citizenry.
 - Coptic Christians deserve to live and worship without being threatened, injured or killed.
 - Violence in the name of the religion is unacceptable, but when governments do not sufficiently address such behavior, the violence is far more troubling.
 - The United States must stand firmly with the people of Egypt, and any U.S. assistance to Egypt must be tied to a strong respect for human rights in the country.
 - Thank you. I yield back.